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SENATE PANEL WARNS OF TOUGH GOING FOR 'CONTRA' AID
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WASHINGTON (UPI) -- CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. AID TO NICARAGUAN REBELS MAY HAVE BEEN UNDERMINED BY SOME OF THE CIA'S COVERT PROGRAMS, A SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE REPORT WARNS.

TWIN FURORS OVER THE MINING OF NICARAGUAN HARBORS AND A GUERRILLA WARFARE MANUAL SOME SAID ADVOCATED POLITICAL ASSASSINATION "WILL SURELY AFFECT CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION OF ANY REQUEST BY THE PRESIDENT TO RESUME THE NICARAGUAN PROGRAM," SAID THE REPORT. A COPY OF THE REPORT WAS OBTAINED BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL MONDAY.

THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE, LED IN THE 98TH CONGRESS BY SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER, R-ARIZ., TOOK THE CIA TO TASK FOR "INADEQUATE SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT" OF COVERT OPERATIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA.

THE 61-PAGE REPORT, A REQUIRED YEAR-END REVIEW ALSO COVERING OTHER TOPICS, NOTED THAT A FALL DECISION TO BAR FURTHER SPENDING FOR COVERT OPERATIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA -- WHERE "CONTRAS" ARE FIGHTING THE SANDINISTA GOVERNMENT -- WAS IN PART DUE TO "INADEQUATE SUPERVISION AND MANAGEMENT OF THIS PROGRAM."

WHEN CONGRESS VOTED ON NICARAGUAN SPENDING IN OCTOBER, IT DECIDED TO FORBID ANY SPENDING UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH AND SAID THE ADMINISTRATION COULD HAVE \$14 MILLION THEN ONLY IF THE HOUSE AND SENATE VOTE AGAIN TO RETAIN THE PROGRAM.

THE COMMITTEE REPORT ALSO WAS CRITICAL OF THE ADMINISTRATION FOR BRIEFLY TRYING TO BYPASS THE PANEL WITH A REQUEST FOR \$21 MILLION FOR THE PROGRAM IN MARCH. IT SAID THAT POLITICAL FAUX PAS "FURTHER UNDERMINED" THE INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT PROCESS.

HOWEVER, THE REPORT SAID THE PANEL FOUND NO EVIDENCE THE CIA HAD CIRCUMVENTED SPENDING LIMITS PLACED ON IT EARLIER IN THE YEAR.

OF THE MANUAL ON PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE, THE PANEL NOTED IT "OFFERED ADVICE TO THE CONTRAS ON HOW, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO EMPLOY VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE THEIR POLITICAL GOALS IN NICARAGUA. SOME OF THE METHODS RECOMMENDED APPEARED TO BE CONTRARY TO STATED CIA POLICIES, AND CERTAIN PASSAGES COULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED TO CALL FOR ASSASSINATIONS (BARRED BY PRESIDENTIAL ORDER).

"IN ADDITION, THE MANUAL INCIDENT RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO THE ADEQUACY OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OVER THE NICARAGUAN PROGRAM."

THE REPORT SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS NOT GIVEN THE REQUIRED NOTIFICATION OF THE MINING OPERATION AND WAS TOLD OF IT ONLY AFTER IT WAS "SUBSTANTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED."

THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ITS REVIEW OF THE MATTER AND AGREED WITH AN INTERNAL CIA PROBE THAT FOUND ONLY LOW-LEVEL EMPLOYEES WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANUAL.